(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 17 April 2003 (17.04.2003)

(10) International Publication Number WO 03/032572 A1

(51) International Patent Classification?:

H04L 9/00

- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/33107
- (22) International Filing Date: 15 October 2002 (15.10.2002)
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 60/328,766

12 October 2001 (12.10.2001)

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR AUTOMATED AUTHENTICATION, PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF DIGI-TAL CERTIFICATES

(57) Abstract: A computer system and process for automated identification, processing and issuance of digital certificates, wherein web server domain-control vetting is employed in issuance of web server certificates. A Requestor requests a web server certificate from a certificate authority, the certificate authority receives the request. Based on domain information the certificate authority generates Approver email addresses, and the Requestor is required to select an Approver email address or addresses. The certificate authority contacts the Approver using the selected email address or addresses and requests that the Approver approve issuance of the certificate. If approved, the certificate authority accepts the request, and creates and signs the certificate and the signed certificate is sent to the Requestor.

METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR AUTOMATED AUTHENTICATION, PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF DIGITAL CERTIFICATES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/328,766, filed October 12, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains material which is subject to copyright protection. The copyright owner has no objection to the facsimile reproduction by anyone of the patent disclosure, as it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office public patent files or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to methods and systems for identification, processing and issuance of server based digital certificates.

[0003] In order to secure information transmitted over the Internet, methods have been developed to secure the connection between web browsers and web servers. Secure sockets layer (SSL), recently re-named TLS but substantially the same protocol, is a protocol designed to enable communications on an insecure network such as the Internet. SSL provides encryption and integrity of communications along with server authentication using digital certificates. However, an SSL connection does not ensure the identity of the recipient of the information nor does

it secure the information once it is decrypted at the web server. Therefore, it is important to be certain that the web server is legitimate.

It has become common practice to use web server digital certificates to authenticate the identity of a web server to visiting browsers. A user's browser will access the web server's digital certificate when directed to enter a secure session. certificate, which contains the web server's public key is then used by the browser to authenticate the identity of the website, that is, the web server and to provide the web browser with the web server's public key so that the web browser can encrypt a session key for use in encryption of transmitted data. Since only the web server has the private key to decrypt the user's information, such information remains secure. The web server certificate is issued by a certification authority. Applicants' assignee, GeoTrust, Inc. is a certification authority. Most web browsers are published with a number of root digital certificates (containing public keys) for CA's already installed and hence the web browser will recognize the CA's signature and trust the certificate.

[0005] Generally, in order to obtain a certificate, the website owner, the Requestor, will submit a certificate signing request (CSR), or its equivalent, containing the web server's public key, along with other information, to a certification authority (CA)

and the CA, when satisfied as to the identity of the Requestor, will issue a certificate containing the web server's public key and sign the certificate using the CA's private key. A traditional method for vetting the web server Requestor is shown in Figure 1. The present invention is directed to methods and systems for automating the identification of the web server Requestor in issuing web server certificates.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] A computer system and process for automated authentication, processing and issuance of digital certificates, wherein web server domain-control vetting is employed in the identification and authorization of the Requestor. Domaincontrol vetting, in accordance with the present invention, includes the mandatory selection of Approver contact addresses by the Requestor wherein the Approver contact addresses, for example, email addresses, have been generated based on domain information. A Requestor requests a web server certificate from a certificate authority, the certificate authority receives the request. The certificate authority generates Approver email addresses, and the Requestor is required to select an Approver email address or addresses. On the other hand, the Requestor can submit one or more email addresses and if one or more of these email addresses are also certificate authority generated Approver email addresses, then the certificate authority can accept the Requestor submitted email addresses that match. The certificate authority contacts the Approver using the selected email address or addresses and requests that the Approver approve issuance of the certificate. If approved, the certificate authority accepts the request, and creates and signs the certificate and the signed certificate is sent to the Requestor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0007] Figure 1 shows one example of the traditional vetting process.
- [0008] Figure 2 shows one preferred embodiment of the vetting process of the present invention, namely, the QuickSSL vetting process.
- [0009] Figures 3a and 3b shows an Initial QuickSSL Premium enrollment page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0010] Figure 4 shows a CSR Review and confirmation page in accordance with the present invention.
- [0011] Figures 5a and 5b show a Order Contact information page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0012] Figure 6 shows an Approval selection page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0013] Figure 7 shows a Payment page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0014] Figures 8a and 8b show an Order Summary and Requestor (Subscriber) confirmation page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0015] Figure 9 shows a Confirmation page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0016] Figure 10 shows a Requestor (Applicant) confirmation email in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0017] Figure 11 shows an Approver email in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

- [0018] Figure 12 shows an Approver review and confirmation page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0019] Figure 13 shows an Approver confirmation page in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0020] Figures 14a and 14b show a Fulfillment email in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.
- [0021] Figures 15a and 15b show the initial certificate order pages in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0022] Figures 16a, 16b and 16c show a enrollment form in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0023] Figure 17 shows the enrollment form in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention wherein a CSR has been pasted into the required field.
- [0024] Figures 18a and 18b show one manifestation of how the enrollment form and other pages in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention are interactive and self-correcting, requiring the Requestor (Subscriber) to correct errors and add omitted but necessary information before proceeding.
- [0025] Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d show the enrollment information conformation and Subscriber Agreement process in

accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

- [0026] Figure 20 shows the automatic response back to the Requestor (Subscriber) who has submitted the completed certificate request properly in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0027] Figure 21 shows a version of the email message the Approver receives requesting approval of the certificate request from the Requestor (Subscriber) in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0028] Figure 22 shows information, terms and conditions, and agreements for the Approver to agree to in approving or disapproving the certificate request in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0029] Figure 23 shows an automated notice confirming the approval of the certificate request in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0030] Figure 24 shows the web server certificate as issued in an email after approval in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0031] Figure 25 shows an automated notice confirming the disapproval by the Approver in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0032] Figure 26 shows a provisioning algorithm in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] Figure 27 shows a provisioning architecture in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The aspects, features and advantages of the present [0034] invention will become better understood with regard to the following description with reference to the accompanying drawings. What follows are preferred embodiments of the present invention. It should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the foregoing is illustrative only and not limiting, having been presented by way of example only. All the features disclosed in this description may be replaced by alternative features serving the same purpose, and equivalents or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Therefore, numerous other embodiments of the modifications thereof are contemplated as falling within the scope of the present invention as defined herein and equivalents thereto. Use of absolute terms, such as "will not will," "shall," "shall not," "must," and "must not," are not meant to limit the present invention as the embodiments disclosed herein are merely exemplary.

[0035] This is a description for how the invention would apply to automated identification, processing, and issuance of digital certificates. For example, SSL server certificates, in this case through an Issuer's Web portal. This is only one of many potential systems, process flows and applications for the invention.

A FIRST PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In accordance with the present invention the automated [0036] methods and systems for Requestor identification may be referred to as domain-control vetting, an example of the process for domain-control vetting is shown in Figure 2. Domain control vetting is the process for verifying that a Requestor has permission from an Approver to obtain and install the product. The Approver must demonstrate control of the domain. Thus, in the present invention the Approver is differentiated from the Requestor. The Approver is an individual who has domain-control and has the responsibility for approving the Requestor's request for a domain-control vetted product (such as QuickSSL). The Requestor is the end user requesting the SSL certificate. In domain-control vetted orders the Requestor selects the Approver email address from a list of authoritative email addresses. In initiating the request, the Requestor fills out an order form including Certificate Signing Request (CSR), and order contact information. See Figures 3a, 3b, 4, 5a and 5b. The Certificate Signing Request (CSR) is a block of information typically generated by the Web Server software that is meant to be submitted to a Certificate Authority (CA) in return for a SSL certificate. The CSR provide the Certificate Authority with the information necessary to generate the SSL Digital Certificate. When the Web Server generates the CSR it is actually generating a

Private and Public Key pair. The private key is kept secret and the public key is bundled into the CSR. The CSR is digitally signed by the private key which proves to the CA that the Web Server has possession of the private key (called "proof of possession").

Next the Requestor is presented with a list of potential Approver emails. See Figure 6. This list may be generated by combining domain related information. Disclosed below are three types of addresses which may be utilized. Of course there are other ways of determining the Approver's email address in accordance with the present invention. In this step of the process, the choices offered in the form for email address for the Approver (Approver Email Address or Addresses) are limited to those chosen by the Issuer, and cannot be altered or amended by the Requestor. The Approver Email Address choices offered on this page (Figure 6) are not created by Requestor or entered into the Enrollment Form by the Requestor, and so the Requestor cannot divert or "short circuit" the approval process by directing the email message requesting official approval of the certificate issuance request to the Requestor or to an unauthorized person. This provides a security element of the automated process and system of the present invention.

[0039] In the first type, the system obtains the technical and administrative contacts from the WhoIs system- a database

mandated by ICANN to be maintained by the domain registrars.

the case the system cannot determine the exact role of the person it will, in certain instances, pull out any e-mail address, for example the e-mail addresses in the response message could be for administrative, technical, billing or other e-mail addresses.

[0040] In the second type, the following list of mail box names, namely: admin, administrator, hostmaster, info, root, ssladmin, sysadmin, webmaster, or other names, may be pre-appended to the 2, 3, 4, ... N component domain of the certificate being requested. For example, if the requested certificate was for "us.secure.geotrust.com", then the system in accordance with this embodiment of the present invention would allow the following: admin@us.secure.geotrust.com; admin@secure.geotrust.com; and admin@geotrust.com for each and every of the "mail boxes" listed above.

- [0041] In the third type, "standard", fixed address sent to the CA's customer support group (support@CA.com) where they will address this on a case by case basis. For example, by sending it to support@ca.com or support@geotrust.com.
- [0042] The Requestor chooses an Approver email, reviews the order information, agrees to the subscriber agreement and completes the order, including payment, and can review the order. See Figures 6, 7, 8a and 8b.
- [0043] An e-mail is sent to the administrative and technical

contacts acknowledging the receipt of the order, and the Approver e-mail is sent to the Approver. See Figures 9, 10 and 11.

Approver receives email with embedded link to the approval site back at the CA and the Approver reviews the order information and either approves or rejects. See Figures 11, 12 and 13.

Requestor receives digital certificate (and/or other fulfillment) via email. See Figures 14a and 14b.

A SECOND PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0044] The Requestor in this embodiment is either the Web domain name registrant who will receive and use the SSL server certificate on the site, or a hosting company/Internet service provider or other agent acting upon the registrant's behalf, views initial certificate order pages and chooses to "order now." This brings Subscriber to a detailed instruction page, including technical assistance and hyperlinks to other resources and instructions. To proceed, Requestor clicks on "apply now" and is taken to the next page. See Figures 15a and 15b.

[0045] The Requestor completes an Enrollment Form providing Requestor Contact and Technical Contact information (including email address) for future communications from Issuer. Requestor generates a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) through standard computer software, and pastes a copy of the CSR in the field indicated on the Enrollment Form to request the SSL server certificate. This page and other pages contain relevant terms

and conditions for the transaction and process (e.g., references to the applicable Certificate Practice Statement. To proceed, Requestor clicks "submit." See Figure 16a, 16b and 16c.

The Enrollment Form showing a CSR pasted into required field is shown on Figure 17.

[0046] The Enrollment form and other pages in the process are interactive and self-correcting, requiring the Requestor to correct errors and add omitted but necessary information before proceeding. Figures 18a and 18b.

After submitting the Enrollment Form, the Requestor is [0047] asked to confirm basic information elements extracted from the Form, including information concerning the Requestor's server's fully qualified domain name, organization, organizational unit, city, state, and country that was extracted from the CSR generated by the Requestor and pasted into the form. This data is presented for approval in the exact form that it will be inserted automatically in the SSL server certificate generated by this process and invention. See Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d. [0048] The Requestor is also required to select an email address for the official person (the "Approver") associated with the domain name who will be asked to approve the issuance of the certificate with the specific data elements contained in the CSR. See Figures 19b, 19c and 19d. In this step of the process, the choices offered in the form for email address for the Approver,

the Approver Email Addresses, are limited to those chosen by the Issuer, and cannot be altered or amended by the Requestor.

Please note that the Approver Email Address choices offered on this page are not created by the Requestor or entered into the Enrollment Form by the Requestor, and so the Requestor cannot divert or "short circuit" the approval process by directing the email message requesting official approval of the certificate issuance request to the Requestor or to an unauthorized person. This provides a security element of the automated process and invention.

[0049] The Approver Email Addresses can be generated or selected according to different algorithms designed for security or other purposes. They may be selected by automated and/or online processes which are also part of the automated process and invention, or they may be selected by off-line processes. As an example, the Approver Email Addresses can be composed some or all of the following data and algorithms: (1) elements created dynamically and automatically from Issuer or third party data sources in response to data or choices made by the Requestor, (2) elements created dynamically and automatically from data submitted by the Requestor, and (3) elements created dynamically and automatically or statically from off-line or pre-set Issuer or other algorithms. It should also be noted that alternately, instant messaging or other such electronic communication means

could be implemented in addition to or in place of email technology for this aspect to the present invention.

[0050] In this case, as shown in Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d, the choice of Approver Email Addresses combines all three features. For this example, the addresses in the screen shots are "billing@PHPWEBHOSTING.COM" and

"support@PHPVWEB-HOSTING.COM", which are the official contact email addresses listed for this domain name in the official registries. The two choices in the left column under the heading "Authorized Domain Name Administrators" were generated automatically and dynamically in real time by looking up and recording the official listed email addresses for the Administrative Contact and Technical Contact for the domain name that is contained within the Certificate Signing Request (CSR) as received from the Registrant, as those email addresses are registered for the domain in one of many "WhoIs" domain name registries (the "Official Email Addresses"). The domain name can be read from the Common Name or CN field in the CSR (using X.509 format).

[0051] In another embodiment, the Requestor's domain name as entered into an enrollment form and/or as contained in the contact email addresses entered into an enrollment form submitted by the Requestor is compared with the domain name contained in the CN field of the CSR submitted by the Requestor, and the

application is rejected if the two names do not match.

[0052] In another embodiment, the Requestor's 0 or OU name(s) (organization and organization unit), L (city), S (state or province), and/or C (country) information contained in the CN field of the CSR submitted by the Requestor is compared with the corresponding data submitted by the Requestor or other data, and the application is rejected if the two names do not match. IN still yet another embodiment the proceeding comparisons are both employed.

[0053] These automatic and dynamic features can (1) provide additional protection against fraud or mistake, (2) help ensure that the CSR is only approved by an authorized person associated with the domain name that is the CN of the certificate, and (3) help ensure that the certificate is delivered to persons associated with the domain name that is the CN in the certificate.

[0054] The process could also include an automated check of any public or private information source via the Internet or any other communications means, including the Issuer's own data or the data of an official or unofficial third party source, followed by a comparison and decision process (e.g., approval or rejection), and this subprocess could occur at any time in the enrollment and certificate request and issuance process.

In accordance with this algorithm, the chance of fraud or error

in generation and delivery of the certificate to the wrong party is substantially reduced. In this case, the checking of the Official Email Addresses associated with the domain name contained in the CSR occurs automatically after the Requestor submits the Enrollment Form with the CSR pasted in, and the subsequent Enrollment pages were modified by using the information obtained through that automatic checking of a third party data source.

Other Approver Email Address choices are included in three additional columns to the right shown on Figures 19b, 19c and 19d. These addresses were selected by the issuer using the other two data and algorithm sources described above: (1) elements created dynamically and automatically from data submitted by the Requestor; and (2) elements created dynamically and automatically or statically from off-line or pre-set Issuer or other algorithms. In this case, the Approver Email Addresses listed in the three columns to the right on Figures 19b, 19c and 19d include: (1) the Level 4 domain name contained in the CSR (i.e., elements created dynamically and automatically from data submitted by the Requestor) and (2) prefixes consisting of the most commonly-used official email contact addresses for domain names (i.e., elements created dynamically and automatically or statically from off-line or pre-set Issuer or other algorithms). These alternatives are offered in case the Requestor (which may

include a hosting company or Internet service provider, as described above) wishes to choose a different Approver Email Address from those dynamically generated based on the official domain name registry information (for example, because the domain name registrant has delegated the upkeep and operation of the associated Web site to the hosting company or Internet service provider, who is applying for the certificate on the domain name registrant's behalf).

[0056] In other circumstances, the Approver Email Address choices could be composed of all three of the data and algorithms sources described above, or any combination thereof, or any other relevant sources.

[0057] As shown in Figure 19d, the Requestor in this embodiment is required to agree to a Requestor Agreement with the Issuer before the process can continue. Clicking "I Agree" triggers the next step.

[0058] Figure 20 shows an automatic response back to the Requestor who has submitted the completed certificate request properly, and includes instructions for further communications. Figure 21 shows a version of the email message the Approver receives requesting approval of the certificate request from the Requestor. It contains a hyperlink taking the Approver to the Issuer's approval site. Because of the invention features described in connection with Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d above,

this message and link to an approval page can only go to one of the Approver Email Addresses offered by the Issuer based on the selected algorithms.

The Issuer's approval site may contain additional [0059] information, terms and conditions, and agreements for the Approver to agree to, or may simply contain a button, or other mechanism, allowing the Approver to approve or disapprove the certificate request. Because of the invention features described in connection with Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d above, this approval step can only be taken by an individual associated with one of the Approver Email Addresses offered by the Issuer based on the selected algorithms, thereby enhancing authenticity and security in the certificate issuance process. See Figure 22. If the Approver approves the request, the Approver (and others, such as the other contact persons listed in the original Enrollment Form) receives an automated notice confirming the approval. See Figure 23. Because of the invention features described in connection with Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d above, this approval message will necessarily be sent to an individual associated with one of the Approver Email Addresses offered by the Issuer based on the selected algorithms, thereby enhancing authenticity and security in the certificate issuance process. If the Approver approves the certificate request, the [0061] Issuer's Certificate Authority automatically and dynamically

generates the certificate and sends it by email to the Approver (and others, in accordance with the particular embodiment, such as the other contact persons listed in the original Enrollment Form). See Figure 24.

A sample automated message transmitting the digital 100621 certificate is shown as Figure 24. The message may also contain instructions or hyperlinks to instructions for installation. Because of the invention features described in connection with Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d above, a copy of this certificate transmittal message will necessarily be sent to an individual associated with one of the Approver Email Addresses offered by the Issuer based on the selected algorithms, thereby enhancing authenticity and security in the certificate issuance process. If the Approver disapproves the request, the Approver (and others, such as the other contact persons listed in the original Enrollment Form) receives an automated notice confirming the disapproval. See Figure 25. Because of the invention features described in connection with Figures 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d above, this disapproval message will necessarily be sent to an individual associated with one of the Approver Email Addresses offered by the Issuer based on the selected algorithms, thereby enhancing authenticity and security in the certificate issuance process. In the process described in Figures 23, 24 and 25, if the Approver rejects the request, they can not later approve it.

If they approve it, they can not later reject it. The state is changed.

ADDITIONAL EMBODIMENTS

[0064] Alternative process feature: The Enrollment Form can request payment information (e.g., credit card information) from the Requestor, and the process can automatically and dynamically check for payment authorization and post the charge upon approval of the certificate request by the Approver. As a further alternative, information gained through the automatic payment process can be used for comparison and/or verification of other information contained in the Enrollment Form and/or CSR, and further process decisioning (e.g., accept or reject) can be based on specific algorithms.

[0065] Having now described preferred embodiments of the invention, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the foregoing is illustrative only and not limiting, having been presented by way of example only. All the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract, and drawings) may be replaced by alternative features serving the same purpose, and equivalents or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Therefore, numerous other embodiments of the modifications thereof are contemplated as falling within the scope of the present invention as defined by

the appended claims and equivalents thereto.

[0066] For example, the techniques may be implemented in hardware or software, or a combination of the two. Preferably, the techniques are implemented in computer programs executing on programmable computers that each include a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device and one or more output devices. Program code is applied to data entered using the input device to perform the functions described and to generate output information. The output information is applied to one or more output devices.

[0067] Each program is preferably implemented in a high level procedural or object oriented programming language to communicate with a computer system, however, the programs can be implemented in assembly or machine language or other computer language, if desired. In any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language.

STILL ADDITIONAL EMBODIMENTS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0068] In another embodiment of the present invention the Requestor may engage a partner of the CA to assist in obtaining the certificate for the Requestor. The partner may perform varying levels of the ordering process workflow.

[0069] A telephone verification step could be added to the process where by the person requesting the certificate, or the

Approver are called via a computer program and asked to enter some information that is displayed on the web browser. The intent of this is to collect another verified piece of information - the phone number (in addition to the Approver e-mail address) to reduce risk and improve security while at the same time making this an automated, quick process. The person called may be requested to say something that is then recorded by the system. This voice print can be used later to verify user identity if needed (for example, by law enforcement). At the very least, a voice recording further inhibits attempts at fraud. For example, when the Requestor gets to the order [0070] summary page and presses confirm a new page is displayed with a code (PIN) on it and some instructions. They are asked to be ready for a phone call at the specified phone number (entered as part of the contact information earlier, or from a corporate data registry (DUNS or similar), or from the WhoIs server data, or other sources). They agree, then the system calls them and asks them to enter the PIN into the phone when prompted. also asked to say their name and other information which is recorded for later use. The phone system passes this PIN back to the enrollment engine where the values are compared. If successful, the system has verified that the Requestor is at the particular phone number and this creates a better audit trail for finding this person later and reduces the risk of fraud.

[0080] If the Approver is the individual to be called (as opposed to the Requestor as described above), the phone call would be performed after they receive their Approver e-mail, come to the Approver site, review the order and press the Approve button. At that point the system would call them and perform the verification. If successful, the system would then issue the certificate.

[0081] Another embodiment of the present invention would also employ corporate registration data. A record for each order/company in a public registration database would be created or accessed with a globally unique identifier with user disclosed information about them or their company - much like DUNs numbers today (www.dnb.com). This is currently a perceived important aspect of traditional vetting where companies are highly encouraged to get a DUNs number by self-reporting some information about the company. This would preferrably be a globally unique ID that can be used to track the certificate back to some additional identifying profile information.

[0082] This profile data would be linked to and from the certificate (which would have the number included, and probably the URL to the data), and perhaps elsewhere at the CA. Users would be able to opt-out of this data being published if they desired. The CA would collect the information, post to this repository, create or obtain the globally unique number, and

include it in the certificate for the user. Currently users need to go and do this prior to requesting the certificate, so this is a quicker, easier process. Finally, if users have a number already, they can enter it during enrollment and the CA would link to that previously registered entity.

[0083] Use of DNS server ownership for verifying domaincontrol. In the case a CA partner is hosting the Requestor's web
site, such service normally includes entering and maintaining the
DNS entry. This is a mapping between the domain name and the IP
address where the server actually resides. Every web connection
made by a browser looks up the domain name in a DNS server,
obtains the IP address, and then connects to that IP address. If
an entity has has control over the DNS server for this domain, it
has control over the domain.

[0084] If a request for a certified for domain name "domain.com" is from a partner (Partner A), the CA can do a DNS look-up and find the authoritative DNS server for this domain. The CA can compare this with the list of DNS servers registered with us for Partner A. If they match, the CA can automatically approve the request, generate the certificate and e-mail to the requestor, tech, billing and Partner A registered contact, or send an approval e-mail to a previously registered e-mail address for Partner A. As before, it should also be noted that alternately, instant messaging or other such electronic

communication means could be implemented in addition to or in place of email technology for this aspect to the present invention.

Each such computer program is preferably stored on a [0085] storage medium or device (e.g., CD-ROM, hard disk or magnetic diskette) that is readable by a general or special purpose programmable computer for configuring and operating the computer when the storage medium or device is read by the computer to perform the procedures described in this document. The system may also be considered to be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, configured with a computer program, where the storage medium so configured causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner. For illustrative purposes the present invention is embodied in the system configuration, method of operation and product or computer-readable medium, such as floppy disks, conventional hard disks, CD-ROMS, Flash ROMS, nonvolatile ROM, RAM and any other equivalent computer memory It will be appreciated that the system, method of operation and product may vary as to the details of its configuration and operation without departing from the basic concepts disclosed herein.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer system for automated identification, processing and issuance of digital web server certificates, wherein domain-control vetting is employed in the identification and authorization of a Requestor.

- 2. A computer system according to claim 1, which functions in accordance with Figure 2.
- A computer system according to claim 1, which functions in accordance with Figure 26.
- 4. A computer system according to claim 1, which functions in accordance with Figure 27.
- 5. A computer system according to claim 1, which functions in accordance with Figures 3a to 14b.
- 6. A computer system according to claim 1, which functions in accordance with Figures 15a to 25.

7. A computer system for automated identification, processing and issuance of digital certificates comprising:

- a. means for a Requestor to request a web server certificate from a certificate authority;
- b. means for the certificate authority to receive the request;
- c. means for the certificate authority to obtain domain information for a domain for which the certificate is being requested;
- d. means for generating Approver email addresses from the domain information;
- e. means for the Requestor to select Approver email address or addresses;
- f. means for the certificate authority to contact the Approver using the selected email address or addresses and requesting that the Approver approve issuance of the certificate;
- g. means for the Approver to deny or approve the request for issuance of the certificate and inform the certificate authority of its denial or approval;
- h. means for the certificate authority to create and sign the certificate;
- i. means for sending the signed certificate to the Requestor.

8. A computerized process for automated identification, processing and issuance of digital certificates, comprising the steps of:

- a Requestor requests a web server certificate from a certificate authority;
- b. the certificate authority receives the request;
- c. the certificate authority obtains domain information for the web server;
- d. the certificate authority generates Approver email addresses from the domain information;
- e. the Requestor is requested to select Approver email address or addresses;
- f. the certificate authority contacts the Approver using the selected email address or addresses and requests that the Approver approve issuance of the certificate;
- g. the certificate authority denies the request if not approved or for any other reason;
- h. the certificate authority accepts the request if approved, and creates and signs the certificate;
- i. the signed certificate is sent to the Requestor.
- A computerized process for automated identification,
 processing and issuance of digital certificates, wherein web

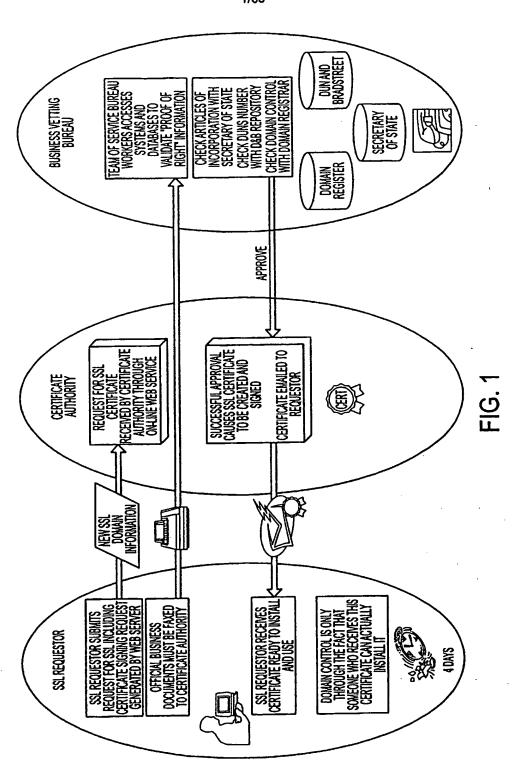
server domain-control vetting is employed to automatically generate a plurality of mandatory web server Approver email addresses for selection by the certificate Requestor.

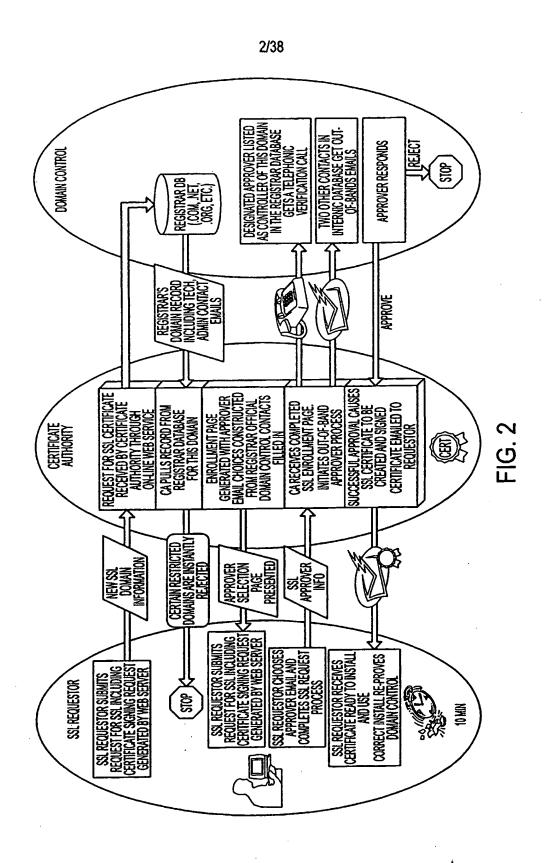
- 10. A computer process according to claim 9, wherein the mandatory web server Approver email addresses are determined in accordance with the process shown in Figure 2.
- 11. A computer process according to claim 9, wherein the mandatory web server Approver email addresses are determined in accordance with the process shown in Figure 26.
- 12. A computer process according to claim 9, wherein the mandatory web server Approver email addresses are determined in accordance with the process shown in Figure 27.
- 13. A computer process according to claim 9, wherein the mandatory web server Approver email addresses are determined in accordance with the process shown in Figures 3a to 14b.
- 14. A computer process according to claim 9, wherein the mandatory web server Approver email addresses are determined in accordance with the process shown in Figures Figures 15a to 25.

15. A computer system for automated identification, processing and issuance of digital certificates comprising:

- a. means for a Requestor to request a web server certificate from a certificate authority;
- b. means for the certificate authority to receive the request;
- c. means for generating Approver email addresses by preappending a mail box name to the 2, 3, 4, ... N component domain of the certificate being requested;
- d. means for the Requestor to select Approver email address or addresses;
- e. means for the certificate authority to contact the
 Approver using the selected email address or addresses
 and requesting that the Approver approve issuance of
 the certificate;
- f. means for the certificate authority to deny the request;
- g. means for the certificate authority to accept the request, create and sign the certificate;
- h. means for sending the signed certificate to the Requestor.

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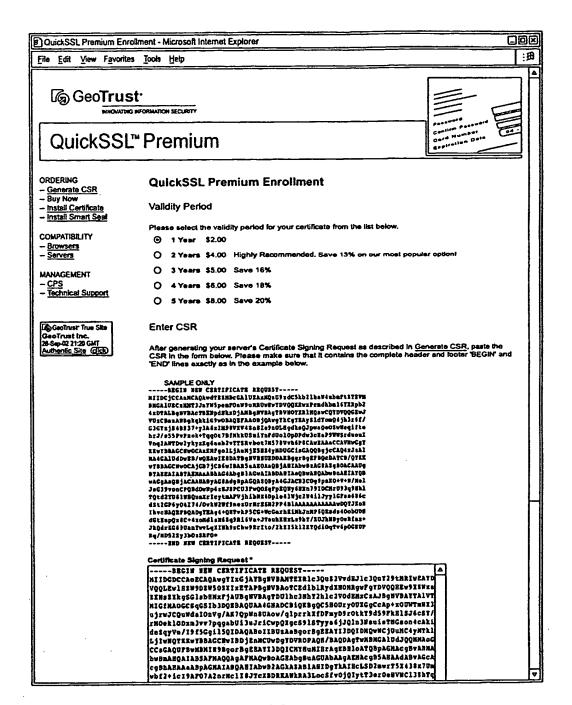


FIG. 3a

QuickSSL Premium Enrolls	nent - Microsoft Internet Explorer	100
ile <u>E</u> dit <u>View Favorites</u>	Ţools Ḥelp	<u> </u>
GeoTrust True Site	Enter CSR	H
GeoTrust Inc. 26-Sep-02-21:20 GMT Authentic Site (CicS)	After generating your server's Certificate Signing Request as described in <u>Generate CSR</u> , paste the CSR in the form below. Please make sure that it contains the complete header and footer 'BEGIN' and 'END' lines exactly as in the example below.	
	SAMPLE ONLY BEGIN HEM CENTIFICATE REQUEST MIDD (CCANKAQNAMTERMECALURANDAG) AGCSLDIBAMAODEFETTUM BIGGLIUGCHMTI JATMS pesTOANDARMOWENDYQQREWSPCHADDAI (ATRIBAD AND ATALBANNAC TERPHOMBED) AMBGINENDY TOYQQREWSPCHADDAI (ATRIBAD AND ATALBANNAC TERPHOMBED) AMBGINENDY ARTOTIRLING WCOTOPYQQGENJ VUGCHALMANDAGANAC TERPHOMBED AMBGINENDY AND ATALBANDAGANAC TOYOGACHJ VUGCHALMANDAGANAC TERPHOMBEN AND ATALBANDAGANAC TOYOGACHJ VAGIANTON JYKYLK GARDAVITIND AT HAND ATALBANDAGANAC CANNACHT KAYBARCCHWOCA, BERNACH JAMNIS HAND AND AND AND ATALBANDAGANAC TOYOGAC KINTBARCCHWOCA, BERNACH AND	
	TQtdITUSIWSQuartepharyjhibwisbpiedlwjczwillypylcrosésc dizcrygolifychwiwisnosumrishipytolalalalalalalapotyros lwcragrzagadytiags-griversco-wedgilalalalalalapotyros dcirposic-tamdalarsayskivo-yrowbirilabytolalara- yhgdricsbyboartwigilibyichwirilo/2ktiskirkigdioqtyspogiup Raymosisylbosiro- 	
	Certificate Signing Request* BIGIN HEW CERTIFICATE REQUEST MIDGDCCAoCCAQAWGTIXCJAYBGHVBANTEXBlcJQuE2VvdBJlcJQuY29tHRIWEAYD VQQLEwlHEN9DIW50IXIXETAPBGHVBAOTCEdlblRydIW6NRGwPgTDVQQHEW9XEWAX	
	IN # SIK Q SCI BB HN F JAU B W BAQ TO U he J Bh T Bh Le F V O B M X CLAJB G W BAT T AL W T B K T	
	CCBGAQUFBWHBHIB9BgorBgEZAYI3DQICHYBUMIBrAgEBBLOATQBDAGMAcgBWABBA bwBahBQAIABSAFKAQQAGAFKAQWBOAGEAbgBUAGUAbAAJAKMACgBSABAAGABWAGGA cgBbhHAAABBAGMAIABQARIABWBSAGEARBAIBEIDgFtAHIBCLSDIWWT5Y141BTTUW wbf2+ici9AF07A3rrkcl18JTcTBDRKAWKRAJLocsfv0jQIytt3er0eHvMCl38bTq YYdG6desbaf7TAVWOGJ81f00W7]YwBwT31EUnLUUTWyfffpHBJYfrLgjw186 +8b28/2d7MS9y8R178/gBUAAAAAAAAAABdHBgkqbhiG9W0BAQUFAADBGQAGLCBB +8b28/2d7MS9y8R178/gBUAAAAAAAAAAAABCHBgkqbhiG9W0BAQUFAADBGQAGLCBB +8b28/2d7MS9y8R178/gBUAAAAAAAAAAAAB	
	7ECAS/d9SOfC7RbyQDuk9wQxJxuJr1+Sxi3Ae6kGpfxR93/D8Lc3xb9bSukQV4Cn GE6GrkizHtkenBTphKwIsxth+bawkLIIxR8AiQ 	
	Server Type Please select the type of web server below so the certificate can be correctly formatted.	
	Web Server Type * Microsoft IIS 5.0	
	Indicates required field. Continue	
	©2002 GeoTrust, Inc. All rights reserved.	
	Privacy Policy, Terms and Conditions.	

FIG. 3b

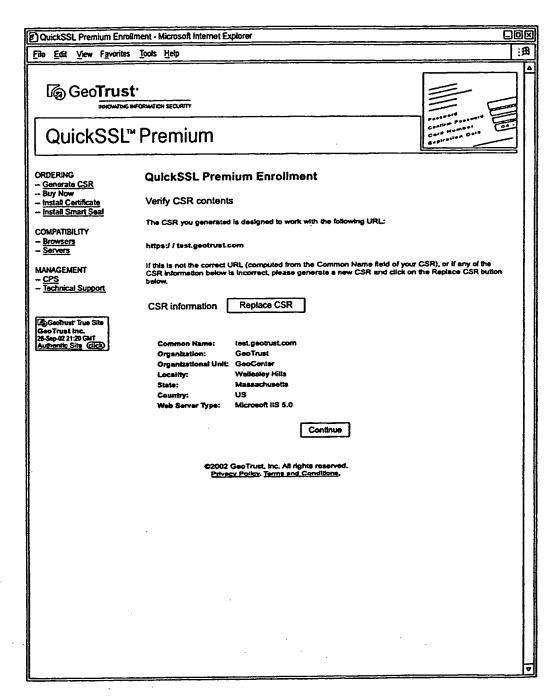


FIG. 4

QuickSSL Premium Enroll	ment - Microsoft Internet Explorer		90	OΚ			
File Edit View Favorites	<u>Iools Help</u>			B			
QuickSSL™ Premium							
ORDERING - Generate CSR - Buy Now - Install Certificate	QuickSSL Premium Enroll						
- Install Smart Seal	Site Administrator Contact Inform	nation		l			
COMPATIBILITY - Browsers - Servers	The administrative contact is the primary questions about the order. First Name *	contact and will be contacted to assi	st in resolution of any				
MANAGEMENT	Doug	Beattie		1			
- <u>CPS</u> - <u>Technical Support</u>	Phone Number *	Email Address *					
GeoTrust True Site GeoTrust Inc.	781-263-4108	dougb@geotrust.com					
26-Sep-02 21:20 GMT Authentic Site (SEE)	Technical Contact Information						
	The Technical contact will receive the ce on the web server. They will also receive O New contact	ertificate and generally be the individu o renewal notices when the certificate	al to install the certificate nears expiration.				
	Check here if same as Administrate	or Contact					
	Firet Name *	_					
	<u> </u>			ı			
	Phone Number*	Email Address *	-				
	<u> </u>						
	Billing Contact Information						
	ot for the purchase when a credit card	is used.					
	Same as Administrator Contact Same as Technical Contact						
	First Name *	Last Name *					
	·			-			

FIG. 5a

5 m 10 5			
e <u>E</u> dit <u>View Favorites</u>	Tools Help		:3
Buy Now Install Certificate Install Smart Seat	Site Administrator Contact Inform	nation	
OMPATIBILITY Browsers Servers	questions about the order.	contact and will be contacted to assist in resolution of any	
 -	First Name * Doug	Beattle	- 1
ANAGEMENT CPS	Doug	Debitio	
Technical Support	Phone Number *	Emell Address *	
Geofrust True Site	781-263-4108	dougb@geotrust.com	
uthentic Site (Click)	Technical Contact Information		
	on the web server. They will also receive	ntificate and generally be the individual to install the certificate renewal notices when the certificate nears expiration.	
	O New contact O Check here if some as Administrato	r Contact	
	First Name *	Last Name *	
	Phone Number *	Email Address *	
	·		
	Billing Contact Information		
	The billing contact will receive the receip New contact	t for the purchase when a credit card is used.	
	Same as Administrator Contact		
	O Same as Technical Contact		
	First Name *	Last Name *	
	Phone Number*	Ernsil Address *	
	<u> </u>		
	 Indicates required field. 	Continue	
	©2002 GeoTrust, Inc. All	i rights reserved. nd Conditions.	

FIG. 5b

QuickSSL Premium Enr	ollment - Microsoft Internet Explorer					
File Edit View Favorite	s Tools Help					
GeoTrust RONOMING RECORDITY QuickSSL [™] Premium						
Quickooi	- i lettiidiii					
ORDERING - Generate CSR - Buy Now - Install Certificate	QuickSSL Premium Enr					
- Install Smart Seal COMPATIBILITY - Browsers - Servers	to approve all certificate requests for authorized administrator below. By a	is upon the Subscriber or the Subscriber all hosts in the domein. Its important the selecting an authorized administrator, you prove the request. Your request for a Ge and this point if you select an incorrect e-	werrant to GeoTrust eoTrust QuickSSL server			
MANAGEMENT - <u>CPS</u> - Technical Support	Registered Domain Contacts					
- Indiana antibus		sin contacts for this domain from the dom	nain r egistraf.			
	⊙ hostmaster@geotrust.com Reg					
GeoTrust True Sita GeoTrust Inc. 26-Sep-02 21:20 GMT Authentic Sita (CICS)	O webmaster@geotrust.com Reg					
	The following approvat e-mail address has been set up and is available before delivered.	wing approval e-mail addresses can be used. You must make sure that the e-mail account set up and is available before you submit this order, or the approval e-mail will not be				
	Level 2 Domain Addresses	Layel 3 Domain Addresses				
	O admin@geotrust.com	O admin@test.geotrust.com				
	O administrator@geotrust.com	O administrator@test.geotrust.com				
	O hostmaster@geotrust.com	O hostmaster@test.geotrust.com				
	O Info@geotrust.com	O info@test.geotrust.com				
	O mot@geotrust.com	O root@test.geotrust.com				
	O ssladmin@geotrust.com	O ssladmin@test.geotrust.com				
	O sysadmin@geotrust.com	O sysadmin@test.goobust.com				
	O webmaster@geotrust.com	O webmaster@test.geotrust.com				
	Manual Approval Option					
		le approver from the list of options above ort will process this request manually. No sused when other options are not availab				
	O GeoTrust Manual Approval					
		Continue				
•	©2002 GeoTrust, In Privacy Policy, Ter	c. Ali rights reserved. ma and Conditions,				

FIG. 6

QuickSSL Premium Enrollm	nent - Microsoft Internet Explorer						
File Edit View Favorites		: #3					
@ GeoTrust	FORMATION SECURITY	4					
ORDERING - Generate CSR - Buy Now	QuickSSL Premium Enrollment						
- Install Certificate - Install Smart Seal	Payment Information Please enter your payment information below.						
COMPATIBILITY - Browsers - Servers	Credit Card Type * Credit Card Number * (select one) •						
MANAGEMENT - CPS - Technical Support	Expiration * Name as it Appears on Card *						
(B) Geoffrest True Site GeoTrust Inc. 28-59-02 21:26 GMT Authoritic Site (GICD)	Upon completion of this order and delivery of the cartificate to you, your credit card will be cha \$2.00 USD. This price was calculated based on your selections of order options. If this price is correct, please do not proceed. • Indicates required field. • Continue	arged s not					
©2002 GeoTrust, Inc. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy, Terms and Conditions.							
		Пь					

FIG. 7

) QuickSSL Premium En	rollment - Microsoft Internet Explorer	
File Edit View Favorit	as Tools Help	<u> :#</u>
	NG DIFORMATION SECURITY	
QuickSSI	L™ Premium	긻
ORDERING Generate CSR Buy Now	QuickSSL Premium Enrollment	
- Install Certificate - Install Smart Seal	Order Summary	
COMPATIBILITY - Browsers - Servers	Please review the information on this page and agree to the subscriber agreement. When you have completed this review, please submit your order for processing.	•
MANAGEMENT - CPS	Order Information Edit	
- Technical Support	Validity Period: 12 months Web Server: Microsoft IIS 5.0	
I GooTrust True Site GeoTrust Inc. 26-Sep42 21:26 GMT Authentic Site (GIGE)	CSR Information Edit	
	Common Name: test.geotrust.com Organization: GeoTrust Org. Unit: GeoCenter Locality: Wellosley Hills State: Massachusetts Country: US	
	Note: The value for Common Name must exactly match the server you plan to secure.	
	Site Contacts Edit	
	Role Name Phone E-Mail	ļ
	Applicant Doug Beattle 781-263-4108 dough@geotrust.com Technical Doug Beattle 781-263-4108 dough@geotrust.com	j
	Billing Doug Beattle 781-263-4106 dough@geotrust.com	
	Approver Information Edit	
	Upon submission of this order, an e-mail will be sent to the following e-mail address. This e-mail account must be active and ready to receive e-mail.	
	Approver e-mail: hostmaster@geotrust.com	
•	Billing Information Edit	-

FIG. 8a

)Qu	ickSSI	Prem	ium Enrolli	ment - Microsoft Internet Explorer	
File	<u>E</u> dit	⊻iew	Favorites	Tools Help	:#
				Approver Information Edit Upon submission of this order, an e-mail will be sent to the following e-mail address. This e-mail	
				Upon submission of this order, an e-mail was be sent to the following e-mail sective and ready to receive e-mail.	i
				Approver e-mail: hostmaster@geotrust.com	
				Billing Information Edit	
			•	Credit Card Brand: VISA Credit Card Number: 5105 xxxxxxxxx 5100 Expliration Date: 12/04	İ
				Cardholder Name: GeoTrust	j
				Upon completion of this order and delivery of the certificate to you, your credit card will be charged \$2.00 USD. This price was calculated based on your selections of order options. If this price is not correct, please do not proceed.	
				Certificate Replacement Policy	
				GeoTrust will reptace, revoke, and refund certificates that have been issued within <u>seven (7) days only</u> of the certificate issue date. If you need a new certificate after seven days, you will be responsible for purchasing a new server certificate.	
				QuickSSL Subscriber Agreement	
				Please carefully read the following egreement, and mark the checkbox below.	
				Please read the following agreement carefully. By submitting an application to obtain a QuickSSL(tm) Certificate and accepting and using such certificate, you indicate the acceptance of the following terms and conditions and you agree to be bound by them.	
				This GeoTrust QuickSSL(tm) Web Server Certificate Subscriber Agreement (this "Agreement") is made by and between GeoTrust Inc. ("GeoTrust") and you, a certificate applicant and governs your application for, issuance and use of a GeoTrust QuickSSL Web	
	•			I agree to this Subscriber Agreement * Click the Submit Order button (below) to send your QuickSSL enrollment information to GeoTrust.	
				The process may take a few seconds to complete. You need to click "Submit Order" only once. You will receive your order ID on the next screen with instructions regarding next steps. Submit Order Submit Order	
				Submit Order	
				©2002 GeoTrust, Inc. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy. Terms and Conditions.	
			•		

FIG. 8b

QuickSSL Premium Enn	oilment - Microsoft Internet Explorer	
File Edit View Favorite	s Tools Help	:: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
	st: DIFFORMATION SECURITY The Premium	Password Continu Passwo
ORDERING - Generate CSR - Buy Now - Install Certificate - Install Smart Seal COMPATIBILITY - Browsers - Servers MANAGEMENT - CPS - Technical Support	QuickSSL Premium Enrollment Thank you for your QuickSSL Premium certificate request Your order number is: 8337 An e-mail message has been sent to the selected approver requesting the request. As soon as they receive this e-mail and come to the approval site generated and e-mailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact	e approval of this certificate s, your certificate will be
Geoffrest True Site GeoTrust Inc. 26-Sep-02 21:25 GMT Authentic Site (GIGD)	©2002 GeoTrust, Inc. All rights reserved. Privacy Policy. Terms and Conditions.	
		·
		 -

FIG. 9

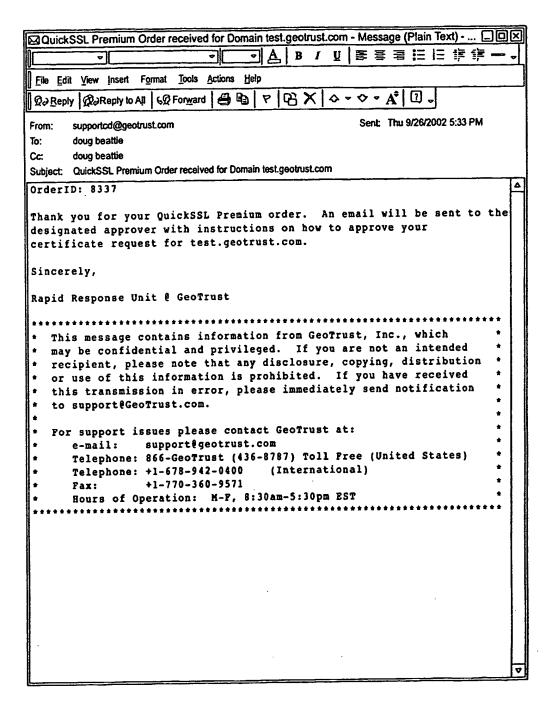


FIG. 10

☑ QuickSSL Premium Certificate Request Confirmation - Message (Plain Text) - US-ASCII	
▼	P •
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Actions Help	
Reply Reply to A! G Forward 日日 P P R X A → ◆ → A I I →	
From: support@geotrust.com Sent: Fri 9/27/2002 7:13	AM
To: hostmaster	
Cc:	
Subject: QuickSSL Premium Certificate Request Confirmation	la.
Dear Domain Administrator,	
The person identified below has requested a QuickSSL Premium certificate https://test.geotrust.com	e for:
Applicant information:	
Name: Doug Beattie E-mail: dough@geotrust.com	
Phone: 781-263-4108	
Doug Beattie requests that you come to the URL below to review and appropriate α	ve
https://custdev.geotrust.com/ssl/quickssl premium.do?pin=A105989900	
If you have any questions, please contact the person identified above, questions at http://www.geotrust.com/customer support .	or
Sincerely,	
Rapid Response Unit 4 GeoTrust	İ
**************************************	1
 This message contains information from GeoTrust, Inc., which may be confidential and privileged. If you are not an intended 	
 may be confidential and privileged. If you are not an incended recipient, please note that any disclosure, copying, distribution 	
 or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received 	·
 this transmission in error, please immediately send notification 	}
• to support@GeoTrust.com.	
* For support issues please contact GeoTrust at:	İ
<pre>* For support issues please contact GeoTrust at: * e-mail: support@geotrust.com *</pre>	
Telephone: 866-GeoTrust (436-8787) Toll Free (United States)	i i
* Telephone: +1-678-942-0400 (International) *	
• Pax: +1-770-360-9571	1
* Hours of Operation: M-F, 8:30am-5:30pm EST	
	₹ 0

FIG. 11

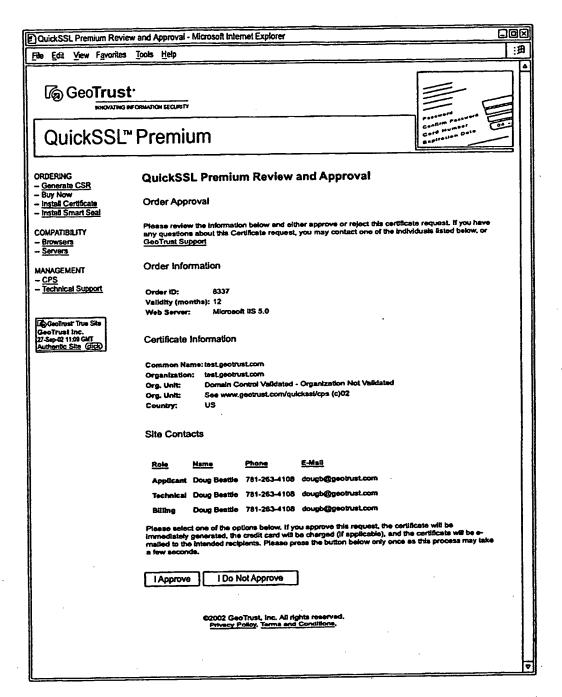


FIG. 12

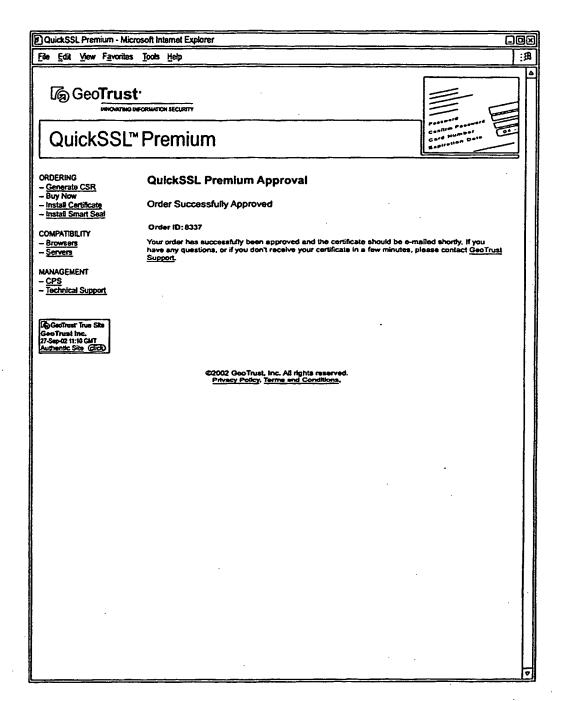


FIG. 13

☑test.geotrust.com QuickSSL Premium Order: 8337 Complete - Message (Plain Text) - US-A □ □ 🗵
AB/U 臺灣書店店指揮中。
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Actions Help
Q→Reply Q→Reply to A! SQ Forward ⊕ □ P □ × ◇ · ◇ · A² □
From: support@geotrust.com Sent: Fri 9/27/2002 7:17 AM
To: doug beattie
Cc: doug beattie; hostmaster
Subject: test.geotrust.com QuickSSL Premium Order: 8337Complete
Congratulations! Your GeoTrust QuickSSL Premium Web server certificate is pasted below at the end of this message.
Certificate installation instructions for many popular web browsers are located at:
http://www.geotrust.com/quickssl/install/index.htm
To install your QuickSSL Smart Seal, you can follow the instructions located at:
http://www.geotrust.com/quickssl premium/install seal.htm
Thank you for choosing GeoTrust! If you have any questions about your GeoTrust QuickSSL web server certificate please email us at supportegeotrust.com. We hope that you will tell others about your positive experience with us.
Sincerely,
Rapid Response Unit # GeoTrust

* This message contains information from GeoTrust, Inc., which
* may be confidential and privileged. If you are not an intended *
* recipient, please note that any disclosure, copying, distribution * * or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received *
or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately send notification *
* to support@GeoTrust.com.
1.
* For support issues please contact GeoTrust at:
 e-mail: support@geotrust.com Telephone: 866-GeoTrust (436-8787) Toll Free (United States) *
* Telephone: +1-678-942-0400 (International)
* Pax: +1-770-360-9571
* Hours of Operation: M-F, 8:30am-5:30pm EST *

FIG. 14a

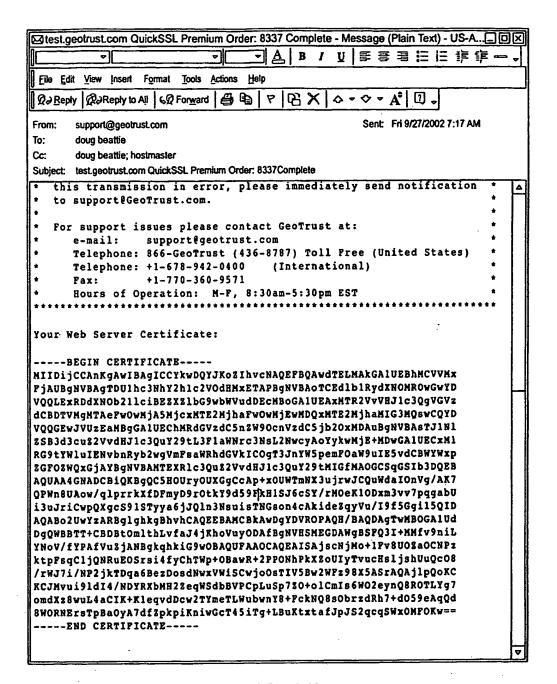
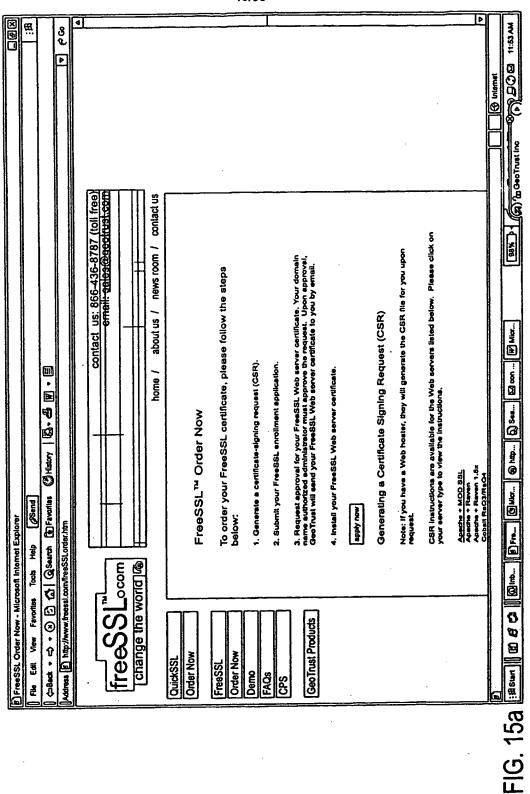
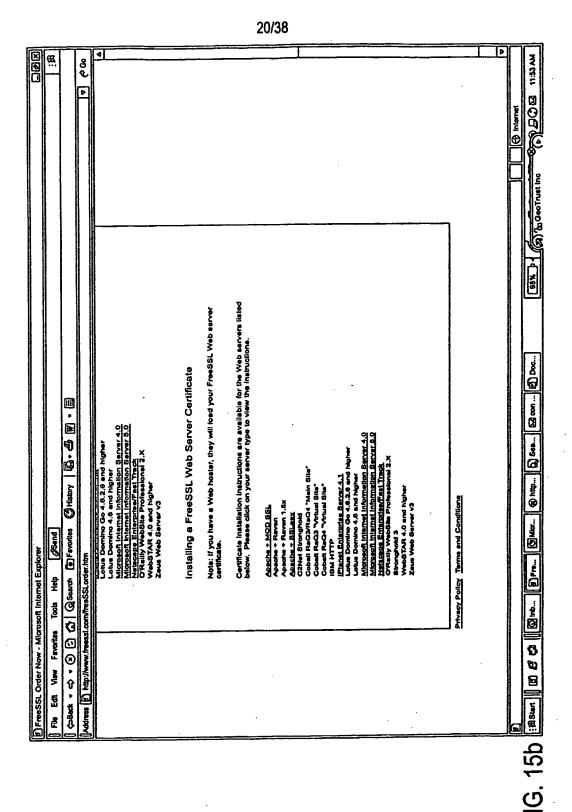


FIG. 14b



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



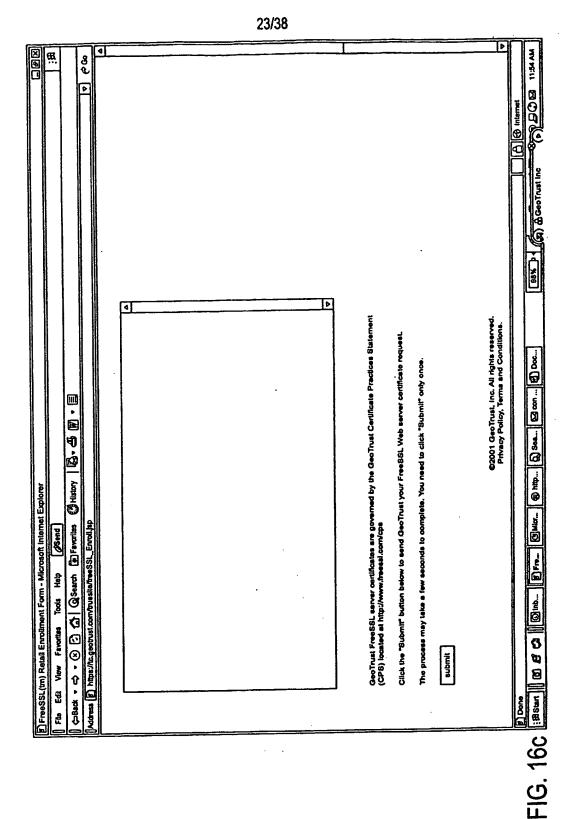
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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																A B D C B
] (A) (B) (B) (B) (Inc
																, √ ×88
							18 ng 1							_	_	
							of this enrollment, you will be asked to agree to our Subscriber Agreement form on sain name registrant (the Subscriber). Next an authorized administrator for the crewe an e-mail from us seeking approval of your request. Once the authorized horizes the certificate request, the certificate will be generated and e-mailed to you at a listed in the form below and to the authorized administrator who approved your									
							greem trator f the auth d e-ma	29								
							criber A adminis Once (ated an	P P P								(S
		A					ar Subs sortzed equest. • gener ninistre	35 S				_				
		B. 4 F					ee to or an auft flyour r e will b	Form key 8 - Designates required field	Last Name	Emsil Address		Contact Information (if dinefent)		Email Address		8
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Form	Toots Hetp	Searc	vesite/f		S Locom	Ħ H	enrolin me reg nn e-mi s the ce	ntact				נפכנ			ny Name (if any)	
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FIG. 18a

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Approval of your Certificate Request
The FreeSBL service reles upon the Subscriber's authorized administrator to approve all certificate requests for all hosts in the domain. GeoTrust obtains the registered Administrator and Technical Contact commit addresses when completing the enrollment as the address of your authorized administrator if appropriate. We have also included other student addresses within the Subscriber's domain that are commonly used it authorized administrator. Before selecting one of the e-mail addresses listed below, you should verify that it is a valid e-mail address since you will not be notified of any e-mail addresses.
it's important that you select the correct authorized administrator of the Subscriber from the list below. By selecting an authorized administrator, you warrant to GeoTrust that the Individual is authorized to approve the Subscriber's request. Your request for a FreeSSL server certificate will not be processed beyond this point if you select an incorrect e-mail address.
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GeoTrust provides FreeSSL Web server certificates to qualified domain sites. As part of the order process, we require the registered domain owner to approve the extificate information.	
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To approve or reject this Web server certificate request, please go to the GeoTrust FreeSSL approval site. For more information about FreeSSL, please visit our Web site at www.FreeSSL.com.	
If you have received this email in error please let us know by clicking the above link to remove your name from future FreeSSL email messages.	
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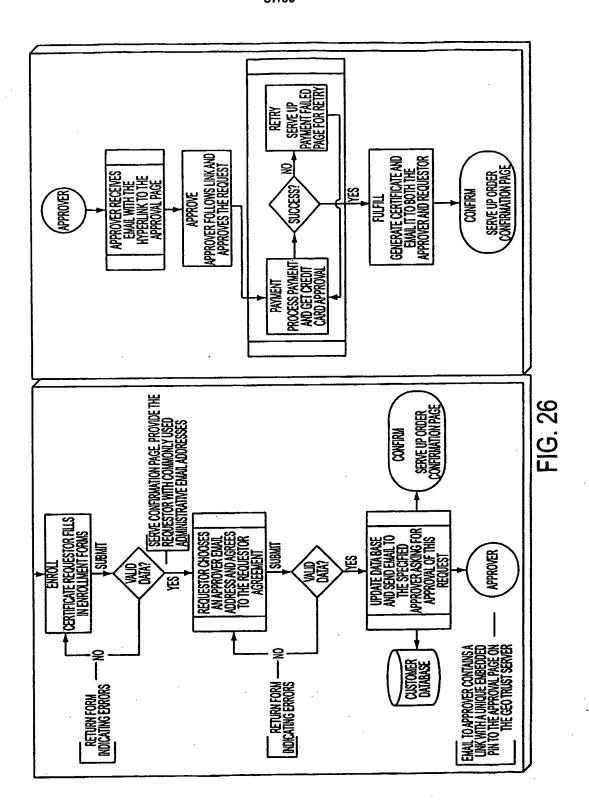
FIG. 23

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C.c. PreeSSL Enrollmen's Subject: RE: www.acconsultanta.com (Order RFS25193As) CONFIRM - Free SSL Certificate Request
Congratulations, your FreeSSL Web server certificate is pasted below:
You can find many frequently ask questions at www.freesd.com, including installation instructions for popular web servers.
If you have any questions about your FreeSSL wab sever certificate please email us at FreeSSLEnrott@geotrust.com.
Regards,
Chris Balley
General Manager
GeoTrust, Inc.
Your Web Server Certificate
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FIG. 24

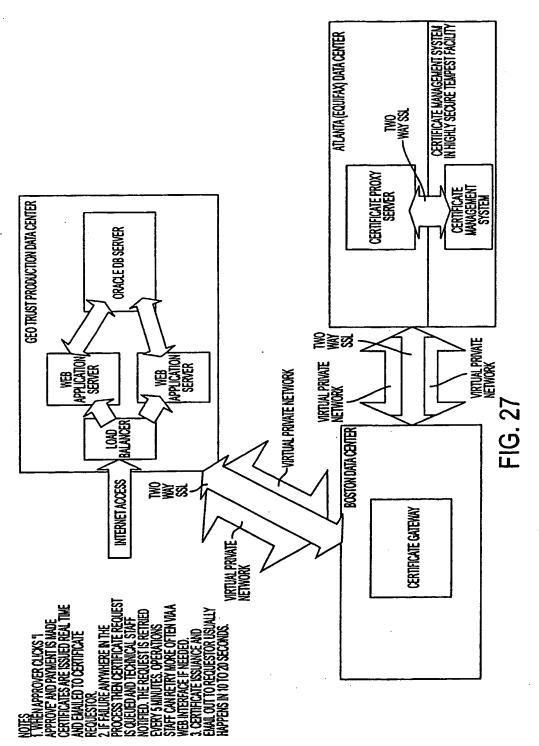
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FIG. 25



WO 03/032572 PCT/US02/33107





INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/33107

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
IPC(7) : H04L 9/00 US CL : 713/201					
	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both nati	onal classification and IPC			
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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)					
U.S.: 713/200,201,155,156,,175,176,179; 705/62,,67,75,78					
	Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)					
Please See Continuation Sheet					
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C. DOCI	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
Y	US 6,035,402 A (VAETH et al) 07 March 2000, col.	6, lines 5-20; col.7, lines 48-67;	1-15		
1	col.8, lines 1-6,34-48.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Y	US 6,134,658 A (MULTERER et al) 17 October 200	0, col.3,1 ines 22-67; col.7,1 ines 7-57;	1-15		
	col.8,lines 1-5. US 5,903,882 A(ASAY et al) 11 May 1999, col.8,lir	ne 0.35 4 5.65; col 14 lines 18.47;	1-15		
A	col.15, lines 57-67,	23 7 23,4 7 00; 001. 14,111.23 10 42,			
A	US 5,982,898 A(HSU et al) 09 November 1999,col.2	2,lines 58-67;col.3,lines 1-10;	1-15		
	col.4,lines 46-67; col.5,lines 38-61.				
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	date claimed				
Date of the a	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sea	rch report		
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12 December 2002 (12.12.2002) Name and mailing address of the ISA/US		Authorized officer			
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks		Gail Mayer Add			
	x PCT ashington, D.C. 20231	Gail Hayes			
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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3: EAST search terms: CA, certificate authority, central authority, authentication, verification, generation, create, derive, SSL, IP, trust authority, data management.				
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